/66 cont./

and licked them off as he swung himself, but no one bothered another with his company. In eating beiju they were perhaps a little more liberal, at least toward me, but in the evening I often saw the men turn aside individually to consume a piece. Later Ehrenreich /67/ found something similar among the Karajá /Caraja/ on the Araguay /Araguaia/. "Etiquette demands that each one eat by himself, turned away from the other. Anyone who violates this must endure the mockery of the others."

Now among the Bakaïrí this etiquette was definitely stricter, certainly in relation to the guest at least, for they completely lost their sense of humor over my lack of manners. I certainly did many things that were not the practice of the country. I sang loudly, I asked men and women their names, I refused the delicate beetle larvae and committed similar quite inexcusable things, but I never noticed that people were ashamed. In this case, however, it was more a matter of considering improper; I had been indecent. There can be no doubt about that.

If we must admit, along with Heine, that we all are naked inside our clothes and may be granted only relative justification for our feeling of modesty, the Bakaïrí, too, cannot be offended in his nobler feelings by the mere fact of eating, insofar as the individual takes care of the process for himself. Involuntarily one thinks of some animal that carries its portion of the meal to one side, but obviously out of the fear that another will take it away. [46] I do believe that fish and meat were relatively scarce among the Bakaïrí, who, with a certain indolence, limited themselves more to mandioca and maize than they themselves liked; I am certain that if I had stayed there a week longer I would voluntarily have sat down in a quiet corner with every good morsel that I had justly or unjustly got hold of, in order to consume it protected from the glances of the others. Even at that time, I am afraid, I was casting hungry glances toward the others. The origin of the feeling of modesty described, however, must be rooted in ancient times.

Good heavens, when we were on short ration: on the expedition, how we so-called civilized human beings checked each other's portions, I can only say with greed and envy, although we